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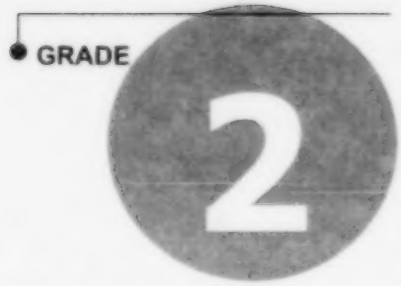
Grade 2

Curriculum Handbook for Parents

Government of Alberta
Education

www.education.alberta.ca



Curriculum Handbook for **Parents**

2009–2010

This Curriculum Handbook provides parents with information about the Grade 2 curriculum. It includes:

- selected learning outcomes for each subject area from the provincial curriculum
- links to the Alberta Education Web site where more information can be found
- a feedback form.

Alberta Education

This document, along with most Alberta Education documents, can be found on the Web site at http://education.alberta.ca.

Parent documents referenced in this handbook, along with most Alberta Education documents, are available for purchase from:

Learning Resources Centre
12360 – 142 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5L 4X9
Telephone: 780–427–2767
Toll-free: 310–0000 (inside Alberta)
Fax: 780–422–9750
Internet: http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

Telephone numbers referred to in this handbook can be reached, toll-free inside Alberta, by dialling 310–0000.

Arts, Communications and Citizenship
Telephone: 780–427–2984
Fax: 780–422–3745
E-mail: curric.contact@education.gov.ab.ca

Digital Design and Resource Authorization
Telephone: 780–427–2984
Fax: 780–422–3745
E-mail: curric.contact@education.gov.ab.ca

Distributed Learning
Telephone: 780–674–5350
Fax: 780–674–6561
E-mail: DLB.General@gov.ab.ca

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Services
Telephone: 780–415–9300
Fax: 780–415–9306
E-mail: FNMIServices@gov.ab.ca

French Language Education Services
Telephone: 780–427–2940
Fax: 780–422–1947
E-mail: LSB@edc.gov.ab.ca

Learner Assessment
Telephone: 780–427–0010
Fax: 780–422–4200
E-mail: LAcontact@edc.gov.ab.ca

Mathematics and Science
Telephone: 780–427–2984
Fax: 780–422–3745
E-mail: curric.contact@education.gov.ab.ca

Special Education Branch
Telephone: 780–422–6326
Fax: 780–422–2039
E-mail: Special.Education@gov.ab.ca

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Message from the
Minister of Education

In today's busy households, where our Kindergarten to Grade 12 students are involved in every kind of extracurricular activity imaginable, it is especially important parents and guardians are kept informed about what their students are learning in the classroom. That is why each year Alberta Education develops the curriculum handbooks series—an insightful guide that outlines what students across the province will learn at their respective grade levels.

We know you play a critical role in determining your child's future success. I am confident this handbook will engage you in Alberta's curriculum, your student's studies, and answer any questions you may have on what your child is learning. I also hope this publication will create an opportunity for open dialogue between you, your child and his or her teacher regarding curriculum outcomes and expectations.

Alberta's curriculum is recognized for its excellence—and our students are thriving as a result. I encourage you to see this handbook as a window into your child's learning and as a resource in understanding how we help students reach their full potential. If you have any questions about the content of this handbook, do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or school.

I hope you find this handbook helpful and informative and I wish you and your student every success this school year.

Dave Hancock, Q.C.
Minister, Alberta Education

Introduction

Web site links for further information are provided throughout the handbook.

Students learn in a variety of environments—in their homes, schools and communities. Parents, teachers and community members form a partnership to assist this learning.

When parents know what children are studying at school, they can provide better home support for their children's learning. The *Curriculum Handbooks for Parents* are designed to assist parents in participating in their child's education by fostering an understanding of what students learn at each grade level.

Finding Information

Parents can find information about the curriculum and learning resources in a number of ways:

- Contact teachers or school administrators.

http://education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/handbook.aspx

- **Curriculum Handbooks** contain selected outcomes for each subject area from the Alberta programs of study. They provide a more detailed picture of each year. This Curriculum Handbook is one of a set from Kindergarten to senior high school produced in general and Catholic versions and in French. They are available on the Alberta Education Web site or for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC).

http://education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/summaries.aspx

- **Curriculum Summaries** for each grade level provide a brief overview of each year. The summaries are available on the Alberta Education Web site.

http://education.alberta.ca/parents/resources/express.aspx

- **Curriculum Express** for Kindergarten to Grade 3 is a series of handbooks, developed to provide a short explanation of the curriculum for parents who are English language learners.

http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program.aspx

- In Alberta, the provincial curriculum is organized into **Programs of Study**. They contain learning outcomes for each subject area from Kindergarten to Grade 12. They are legal documents that outline why the educational program is offered, what students are expected to learn and the basic principles about how students are to achieve the required knowledge, skills and attitudes. School authorities use the **Programs of Study** to ensure that students meet provincial standards of achievement. However, they have flexibility to decide how to teach the curriculum and the order in which it is taught. They are available on the Alberta Education Web site or for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC).

http://education.alberta.ca/apps/lrdb

- The Authorized Resources Database on the Alberta Education Web site lists **Alberta authorized student and teacher resources**, most of which are available for purchase from the LRC.

http://education.alberta.ca

- The **Alberta Education Web site** contains information on learning from the early years to adulthood.

Helping Your Child at Home

Here are some important pointers for you to help your child learn.

- Be positive and encouraging in your approach to learning. It will help your child feel confident and enthusiastic about success.
- Talk to your child about schoolwork and help with homework when you can.
- Help your child set realistic goals and discuss progress in an encouraging way.
- Connect your child's schoolwork with everyday life and use these opportunities for problem solving in everyday situations.
- Keep in touch with teachers about your child's progress, including successes and achievements, not just concerns.

The following resources may help you. Check your child's school for availability.

This resource is available for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC). Order online at http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

- *The Parent Advantage: Helping Children Become More Successful Learners at Home and School, Grades 1–9*— Strategies parents can use to help their child improve organizational, reading, writing, spelling, mathematical, test taking and project skills at the grades 1–9 levels.

http://education.alberta.ca/media/356481/mathprbk.pdf

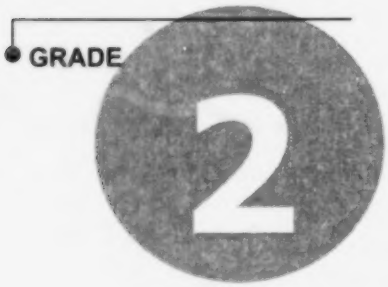
- *Working Together in Mathematics Education*—Ways parents can support student learning in mathematics.

http://learnalberta.ca

- *LearnAlberta.ca* Web site—Online multimedia learning resources that directly relate to the Alberta programs of study.

http://www.2learn.ca

- *TELUS 2Learn* Web site—An education/business partnership that provides Internet in-service, support and information for Alberta teachers, students and parents.



In Grade 2, students study required subject areas. Optional subject areas may be available at the local school. Students have access to a minimum of 950 hours of instruction each school year.

Overview

The Grade 2 Alberta program of studies for each subject area sets out general outcomes or topics that provide an overview of the important learnings students accomplish. Specific outcomes are included for each general outcome or topic and state in detail the knowledge, skills and attitudes students are working towards achieving.

View the programs of study at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program.aspx

This handbook contains:

- the general outcomes or topics for each subject area
- selected specific outcomes for most subject areas.

Purchase programs of study from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC). Order online at http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

The programs of study, which include all the general and specific outcomes, are available on the Alberta Education Web site or for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC).

GRADE 2: REQUIRED SUBJECT AREAS] STUDENTS TAKE:

- English Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Health and Life Skills
- Art and Music

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is infused throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

GRADE 2: OPTIONAL SUBJECT AREAS] SCHOOLS MAY OFFER:

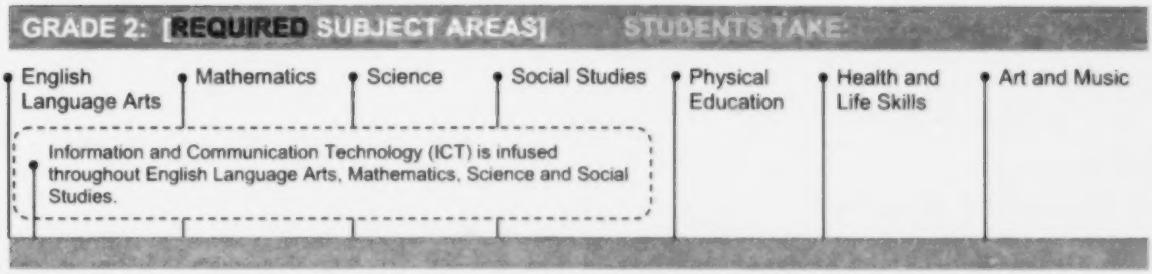
- Drama
- Languages*

* Students in bilingual programs take English language arts as well as language arts in the target language. Students in French immersion programs may take English language arts. English language arts for these students is mandatory in Grade 3.

New Courses for 2009–2010 School Year:

- Mathematics (English and French)

The **required subject areas** are the foundation of the elementary program.



English Language Arts

View the English language arts subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/english.aspx

There are two basic aims of English language arts. One aim is to encourage, in students, an understanding and appreciation of the significance and artistry of literature. A second aim is to enable each student to understand and appreciate language and to use it confidently and competently for a variety of purposes, with diverse audiences and in a range of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and learning.

From Kindergarten to Grade 12, students are developing knowledge, skills and attitudes in six language arts: Listening and Speaking; Reading and Writing; Viewing and Representing. Students learn to compose, comprehend and respond to oral, print and other media texts. They experience a variety of texts from many cultural traditions.

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 2 English Language Arts Program of Studies.

Explore thoughts, ideas, feelings and experiences

- contribute relevant ideas and information from personal experiences to group language activities
- recognize and talk about developing abilities as readers, writers and illustrators listen and respond appropriately to experiences and feelings shared by others
- connect own ideas and experiences with those shared by others
- record ideas and information in ways that make sense

Comprehend and respond personally and critically to oral, print and other media texts

- use knowledge of the organizational structures of print and stories, such as book covers, titles, pictures and typical beginnings, to construct and confirm meaning
- figure out, predict and monitor the meaning of unfamiliar words to make sense of reading, using cues such as pictures, context, phonics, grammatical awareness and background knowledge
- apply phonic rules and generalizations to read unfamiliar words in context
- use knowledge of word parts, contractions and compound words to read unfamiliar words in context
- identify main characters, places and events in a variety of oral, print and other media texts
- create narratives that have beginnings, middles and ends; settings; and main characters that perform actions

Manage ideas and information

- relate personal knowledge to ideas and information in oral, print and other media texts
- ask questions to focus on particular aspects of topics for own investigations
- use text features, such as table of contents, key words, captions and hot links, to access information
- record key facts and ideas in own words; identify titles and authors of sources
- share, with familiar audiences, ideas and information on topics
- answer questions, such as "What did I do that worked well?" to reflect on research experiences

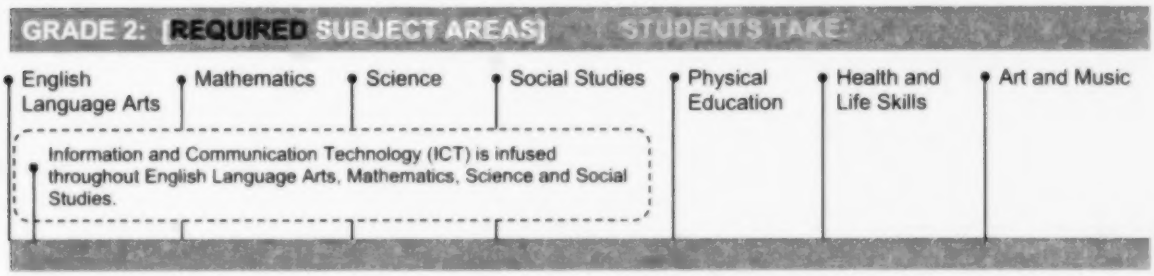
Enhance the clarity and artistry of communication

- revise words and sentences to improve sequence or add missing information
- print legibly and efficiently, forming letters of consistent size and shape, and spacing words appropriately
- explore and use the keyboard to compose and revise text
- use connecting words to join related ideas in a sentence
- use the conventional spelling of common words necessary for the efficient communication of ideas in writing

- present ideas and information by combining illustrations and written texts
- speak in a clear voice, with appropriate volume, at an understandable pace and with expression
- ask relevant questions to clarify understanding and to have information explained

Respect, support and collaborate with others

- discuss similarities and differences in settings, characters and events in oral, print and other media texts from various communities
- adjust own language use according to the context, purpose and audience
- identify ways that class members can help each other
- stay on topic during class and group discussions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Health and Life Skills
Art and Music
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Mathematics

View the mathematics subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/math.aspx

The main goals of mathematics education are to prepare students to:

- use mathematics to solve problems
- communicate and reason mathematically
- appreciate and value mathematics
- make connections between mathematics and its applications
- commit themselves to lifelong learning
- become mathematically literate adults, using mathematics to contribute to society.

Students who have met these goals will:

- gain understanding and appreciation of the contributions of mathematics as a science, philosophy and art
- exhibit a positive attitude toward mathematics
- engage and persevere in mathematical tasks and projects
- contribute to mathematical discussions
- take risks in performing mathematical tasks
- exhibit curiosity.

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 2 Mathematics Program of Studies.

Number

- say the number sequence 0 to 100 by:
  - 2s, 5s and 10s, forward and backward, using starting points that are multiples of 2, 5 and 10 respectively
  - 10s, using starting points from 1 to 9
  - 2s, starting from 1
- demonstrate if a number (up to 100) is even or odd

- represent and describe numbers to 100, concretely (using physical objects such as blocks), pictorially (using pictures) and symbolically (using numbers)
- illustrate, concretely and pictorially, the meaning of place value for numerals to 100
- demonstrate an understanding of addition (limited to 1- and 2-digit numerals) with answers to 100 and the corresponding subtraction by:
  - using personal strategies for adding and subtracting with and without the support of manipulatives
  - creating and solving problems that involve addition and subtraction
  - using the commutative property of addition (the order in which numbers are added does not affect the sum)
  - using the associative property of addition (grouping a set of numbers in different ways does not affect the sum)
  - explaining that the order in which numbers are subtracted may affect the difference

Patterns and Relations

- demonstrate an understanding of increasing patterns by:
  - describing
  - reproducing
  - extending
  - creating

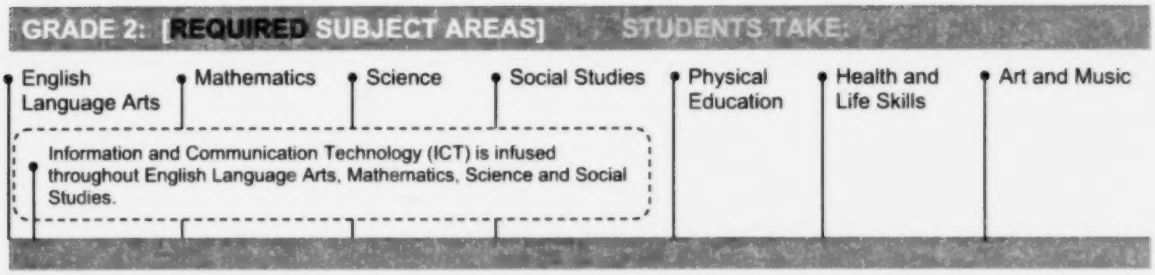
  numerical (numbers to 100) and non-numerical patterns using manipulatives, diagrams, sounds and actions
- demonstrate and explain the meaning of equality and inequality, concretely and pictorially

Shape and Space

- relate the size of a unit of measure to the number of units (limited to nonstandard units) used to measure length and mass (weight)
- demonstrate that changing the orientation of an object does not alter the measurements of its attributes

Statistics and Probability

- gather and record data about self and others to answer questions
- construct and interpret concrete graphs and pictographs to solve problems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Science

View the science subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/science.aspx

View science digital resources on the LearnAlberta.ca Web site at http://learnalberta.ca

The aim of the science program is to encourage and stimulate children's learning by nurturing their sense of wonderment, by developing skill and confidence in investigating their surroundings, and by building a foundation of experience and understanding upon which later learning can be based. In elementary science, students develop their skills of inquiry and problem solving. They are also developing positive attitudes toward the study of science and the application of science in responsible ways.

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 2 Science Program of Studies.

Exploring Liquids

- observe that liquid water can be changed to ice or to steam, and back again, if heated and cooled, and that wet materials dry out when left open to the air
- learn that water is our most important liquid, that we use water in many ways, and that water is essential to life
- describe some properties of water and other liquids, and recognize the importance of water to living and nonliving things

Buoyancy and Boats

- learn about balance and stability and about different methods that can be used in propelling a watercraft
- explore the concept of density
- construct objects that will float on and move through water, and evaluate various designs for watercraft

Magnetism

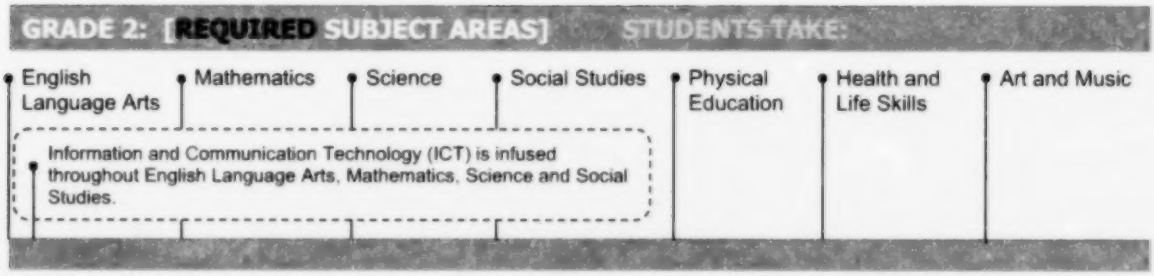
- learn to distinguish materials that are affected by magnets from those that are not
- learn how magnets can be used in sorting objects, moving things and holding things together
- describe the interaction of magnets with other magnets and with common materials

Hot and Cold Temperature

- observe that temperatures can go up and down, including the temperature of their surroundings and the temperatures of particular objects within it
- learn about methods that are used to control temperature in buildings
- learn how insulation is used to keep things hot or cold

Small Crawling and Flying Animals

- learn about where small animals live, what they eat, and what they are eaten by
- learn features of the animals that suit them to their particular environment
- describe the general structure and life habits of small crawling and flying animals; for example, insects, spiders, worms, slugs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Social Studies

View the social studies subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/socialstudies.aspx

The aim of the social studies program is to promote a sense of belonging and acceptance in students as they engage in active and responsible citizenship. At the heart of Alberta's social studies program are concepts of citizenship and identity in the Canadian context. It also includes multiple perspectives, including Aboriginal and Francophone, that contribute to Canada's identity. The program also has a strong focus on Canadian and Alberta history.

Grade 2 students will investigate life in three diverse communities within Canada. Based on their understanding of their own communities, students will explore characteristics of selected rural and urban communities in Canada: an Inuit community, a prairie community and an Acadian community. They will apply their understanding of various aspects that define communities, such as geography, culture, language, heritage, economics and resources, in their investigation of how communities are connected. Students will discover how people live in each of these communities and will reflect upon the vastness of Canada and the diversity of Canadian communities.

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 2 Social Studies Program of Studies.

Canada's Dynamic Communities

Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how geography, culture, language, heritage, economics and resources shape and change Canada's communities.

Values and Attitudes

appreciate the physical and human geography of the communities studied:

- appreciate how a community's physical geography shapes identity
- appreciate the diversity and vastness of Canada's land and peoples

Knowledge and Understanding

investigate the physical geography of an Inuit, an Acadian, and a prairie community in Canada by exploring and reflecting the following questions for inquiry:

- Where are the Inuit, Acadian and prairie communities located in Canada?
- What are the major geographical regions, landforms and bodies of water in each community?
- What geographic factors determined the establishment of each community (e.g., soil, water and climate)?
- What is daily life like for children in Inuit, Acadian and prairie communities (e.g., recreation, school)?

investigate the cultural and linguistic characteristics of an Inuit, an Acadian and a prairie community in Canada by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry:

- What are the cultural characteristics of the communities (e.g., special symbols, landmarks, languages spoken, shared stories or traditions, monuments, schools, churches)?
- How are the communities strengthened by their stories, traditions and events of the past?
- What individuals and groups contributed to the development of the communities?
- How do the cultural and linguistic characteristics of the communities studied contribute to Canada's identity?

investigate the economic characteristics of communities in Canada by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry:

- What kinds of natural resources exist in the communities (e.g., fishing, agriculture, mining)?
- What kinds of goods and services are available in the communities?

A Community in the Past

Students will demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of how a community emerged, and of how the various interactions and cooperation among peoples ensure the continued growth and vitality of the community.

Values and Attitudes

- appreciate how stories of the past connect individuals and communities to the present
- appreciate how Aboriginal and Francophone peoples have influenced the development of the student's community

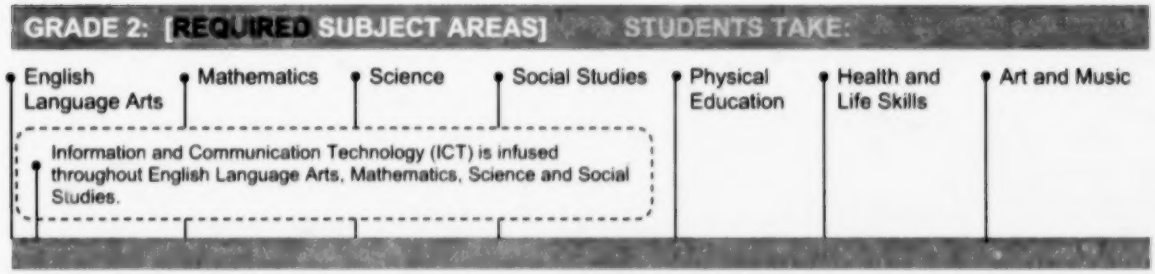
Knowledge and Understanding

analyze how the community being studied emerged, by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry:

- What characteristics define their community?
- What are the origins of their community?
- What individuals or groups contributed to the development of their community?

examine how the community being studied has changed, by exploring and reflecting upon the following questions for inquiry:

- In what ways has our community changed over time (e.g., changes in transportation, land use)?
- How has the population of their community changed over time (e.g., ethnic mix, age, occupations)?
- How is the presence of Aboriginal and/or Francophone origins reflected in the community today?



Information and Communication Technology (ICT)*

View the information and communication technology subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/ict.aspx

Students learn how to use and apply a variety of information and communication technologies; the nature of technology and the importance of technology in daily life. ICT is learned most effectively in the context of subject areas such as language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. The ICT curriculum is not intended to be taught as a stand-alone course but rather to be infused within the teaching of other programs of study.

The ICT Program of Studies is organized by division. The following is a sample of the Division 1 learning outcomes that students are expected to meet by the end of Grade 3.

Communicating, Inquiring, Decision Making and Problem Solving

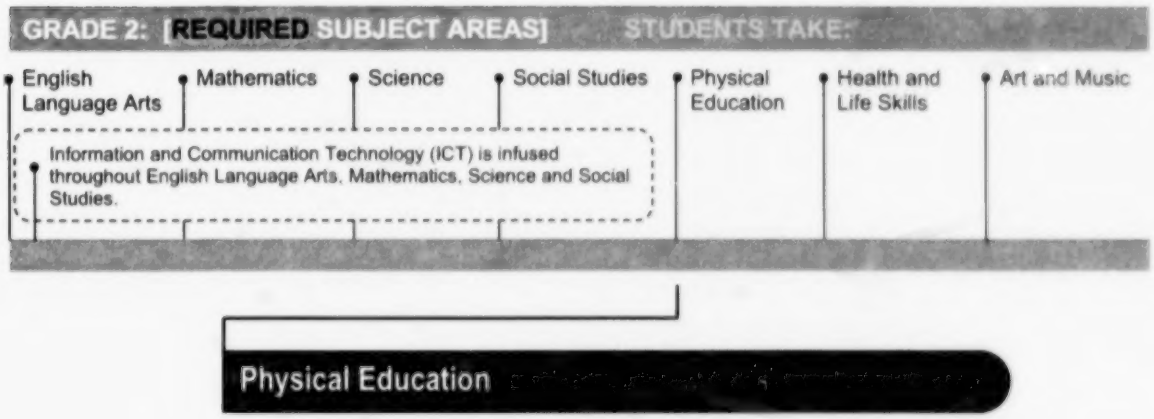
- access and retrieve appropriate information from electronic sources for a specific inquiry
- process information from more than one source to retell what has been discovered

Foundational Operations, Knowledge and Concepts

- identify technologies used in everyday life
- demonstrate courtesy and follow classroom procedures when making appropriate use of technology

Processes for Productivity

- create original text, using word processing software, to communicate and demonstrate understanding of forms and techniques
- edit complete sentences, using such features of word processing as cut, copy and paste



Physical Education

View the physical education subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/pe.aspx

The aim of the K–12 physical education program is to enable individuals to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to lead an active, healthy lifestyle. Students participate in a variety of physical activities: dance, games, types of gymnastics, individual activities and activities in alternative environments, such as aquatics and outdoor pursuits. All learning outcomes are to be met through physical activity as a means of fostering a desire in students to participate in lifelong physical activity.

General Outcome A: Activity

Students will acquire skills through a variety of developmentally appropriate movement activities; dance, games, types of gymnastics, individual activities and activities in an alternative environment; e.g., aquatics and outdoor pursuits.

- Basic Skills; Locomotor; Nonlocomotor; Manipulative
- Application of Basic Skills in an Alternative Environment, Dance, Games, Types of Gymnastics, Individual Activities

General outcomes B, C and D are interrelated and interdependent and are achieved through involvement in movement activities identified in General Outcome A.

General Outcome B: Benefits Health

Students will understand, experience and appreciate the health benefits that result from physical activity.

- Functional Fitness
- Body Image
- Well-being

General Outcome C: Cooperation

Students will interact positively with others.

- Communication
- Fair Play
- Leadership
- Teamwork

General Outcome D: Do it Daily ... for Life!

Students will assume responsibility to lead an active way of life.

- Effort
- Safety
- Goal Setting/Personal Challenge
- Active Living in the Community

Exemptions from Physical Education

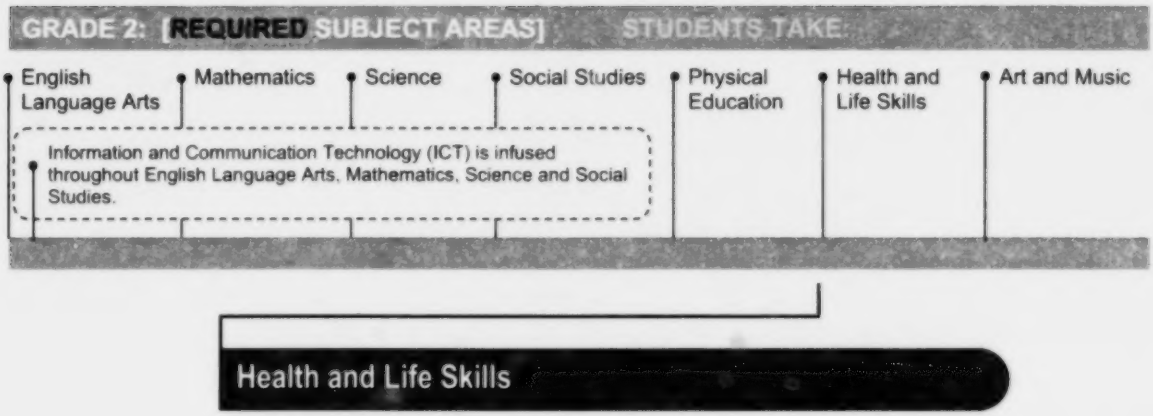
Exemptions from participation in physical education may be given for medical conditions, when accompanied by a medical certificate from a doctor to the principal; for religious beliefs, when accompanied by a statement in writing from the parent to the principal; and where access to facilities is prohibitive. When exemption is granted, activities consistent with the program outcomes should be substituted, where appropriate.

Physical Education Online

http://education.alberta.ca/physicaleducationonline

The Physical Education Online Web site provides a wealth of information to support student learning of the K–12 physical education program of studies. The site is organized into three major sections:

- Program of Studies—The general outcomes and grade specific outcomes for K–12.
- Teacher Resources—Links to authorized resources, the Guide to Implementation, teaching tools, and activities and lessons that address the outcomes for the K–12 physical education program.
- Home Education—This portion is designed for parents and teachers to use with students who may be enrolled in an online or home education physical education course.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Health and Life Skills

View the health and life skills subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/health.aspx

The aim of the health and life skills program is to enable students to make well-informed, healthy choices and to develop behaviours that contribute to the well-being of self and others. A comprehensive health program involves a partnership among home, school and community.

Wellness Choices

Students will make responsible and informed choices to maintain health and promote safety for self and others.

- Personal health
- Safety and responsibility

Relationship Choices

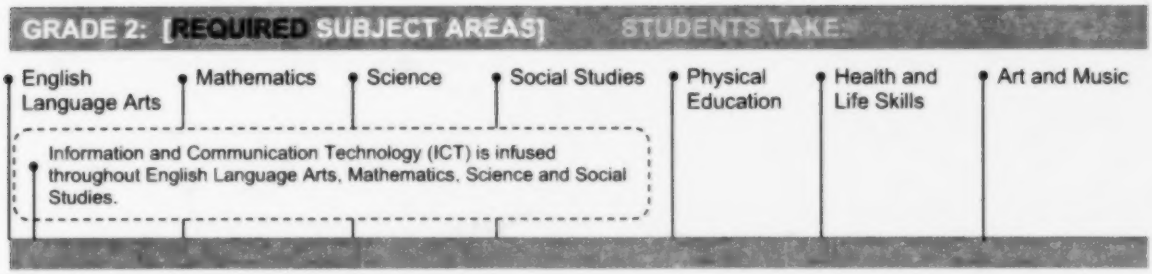
Students will develop effective interpersonal skills that demonstrate responsibility, respect and caring in order to establish and maintain healthy interactions.

- Understanding and expressing feelings
- Interactions
- Group roles and processes

Life Learning Choices

Students will use resources effectively to manage and explore life roles and career opportunities and challenges.

- Learning strategies
- Life roles and career development
- Volunteerism


GRADE 2: [REQUIRED SUBJECT AREAS] STUDENTS TAKE:
English Language Arts
Mathematics
Science
Social Studies
Physical Education
Health and Life Skills
Art and Music
Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is infused throughout English Language Arts, Mathematics, Science and Social Studies.

Art and Music

View the fine arts subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/finearts.aspx

Through art and music, students develop self-awareness and express their creativity in many ways. They respond personally and critically to a variety of art and music styles and forms.

Art

The aim of the art program is to enable students to learn visual arts skills and concepts, to interpret and communicate with visual symbols, to appreciate the cultural aspects of art, and to relate art to everyday life. The art curriculum has four major components: reflection, depiction, composition and expression.

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 2 Art Program of Studies.

- notice that natural objects or forms have common features
- assess the use or function of objects
- develop decorative styles
- add finishing touches to their creations
- decorate items personally created
- use media and techniques with an emphasis on exploring and applying methods in drawing, painting, print making, sculpture, fabric arts, photography and computer graphics

Music

The aim of the music program is for students to develop an enjoyment of music, an understanding of a variety of music styles and an insight into music through a variety of musical activities. The music program is developed around the concepts of rhythm, melody, harmony, form and expression. These concepts are learned through participating in six skill areas: listening, moving, singing, playing instruments, reading and writing, and creating.

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Grade 2 Music Program of Studies.

- understand that rhythm patterns can accompany melody
- understand that printed symbols in music show the direction of the melody
- understand that music may be fast or slow and may change from one to the other suddenly or gradually
- detect the rise and fall of melody
- improvise movements to poems, stories and songs
- sing many folk, ethnic, seasonal and holiday songs
- play simple rhythm patterns
- recognize the music staff and treble clef sign
- create melodic and/or percussion accompaniments for poems and songs

The range of optional subject areas offered by elementary schools varies from school to school depending on such factors as student and parent preferences, facilities and staffing.

GRADE 2: [OPTIONAL SUBJECT AREAS] SCHOOLS MAY OFFER:

- Drama
- Languages

Drama

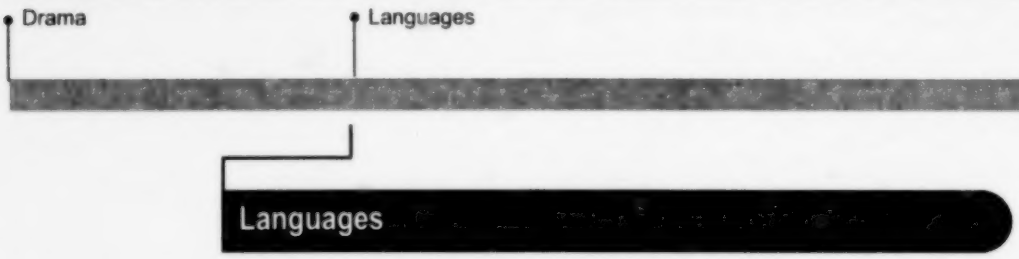
View the drama subject page at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/finearts.aspx

The aim of the drama program is for students to develop a positive self-concept by assuming other roles and acquiring dramatic skills. Play, dramatic play and structured dramatic play are the foundation for dramatic forms of expression. These include dramatic movement, mime, choral speech, storytelling, dramatization, puppetry, choric drama, readers' theatre, story theatre, playmaking and group drama.

Drama may be taught as a separate subject area or integrated with other subjects.

GRADE 2: [OPTIONAL SUBJECT AREAS] SCHOOLS MAY OFFER:

- Drama
- Languages



http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/learnlang/educators/toolkit.aspx

A variety of courses in languages are available throughout Alberta. These courses include First Nations, Métis and Inuit languages, French and International languages.

Alberta Education has approved numerous provincial language programs of study. As well, school authorities may develop and implement locally developed language courses to meet their needs.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Languages

Blackfoot and Cree Language and Culture

http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/fnmi.aspx

Blackfoot and Cree language and culture programs are designed to enable students to learn their respective languages and to increase awareness of their cultures.

The following learning outcomes are selected from the Blackfoot and Cree Language and Culture Programs of Study.

Blackfoot

- acquire basic communication skills in the Blackfoot language
- develop cultural sensitivity, and enhance personal development
- develop a desire to extend or improve proficiency in the Blackfoot language

Cree

- use Cree in a variety of community and school situations and for a variety of purposes
- be effective, competent and comfortable as Cree speakers (*Okiskinamawâkanak ka nihtâ nehiyawewak*)

- live *(wa)wētina(hk)* (peacefully) with Mother Earth, others and themselves, guided by *Ômâmawi Ohtâwîmâw* (the Creator)
- know and use various strategies to maximize the effectiveness of learning and communication

French

French Immersion Program

http://education.alberta.ca/parents/educationsys/frenchlanguage/immersion.aspx

In Alberta, many students have the opportunity to study in a French immersion program. This program, designed for non-French speaking students, offers an effective way for students to become functionally fluent in French while achieving all of the learning outcomes of the regular programs of study. Graduates from French immersion programs achieve a level of fluency in the target language that allows them to pursue their post-secondary studies in French or to accept employment in a workplace where French is the main language of communication.

There are many delivery models for French immersion present in Alberta schools.

- Early immersion—students begin their immersion experience in Kindergarten and continue in the program to Grade 12.
- Late immersion—the entry point is typically Grade 7.

Courses offered in the French language have as their basis a French version of the English language programs of study, which is identical or comparable to the one used in the English language programs. However, a program of studies specific to French immersion students was developed for the learning/teaching of French language arts. Some of the main French language arts learning outcomes are presented in the following section, French Language Arts.

A resource that may be helpful to parents is *Yes, You Can Help! Information and Inspiration for French Immersion Parents*. It is available for purchase from the LRC.

French Language Arts

http://education.alberta.ca/francais/teachers/progres/core/fla.aspx

In Division 1, the French language arts program of studies is primarily intended to develop oral vocabulary and basic sentence structure that will enable students to engage actively in classroom activities. By first learning orally the basics of the French language, especially vocabulary, students are able to learn how to read since the words they encounter in their reading will now have meaning. They will also have acquired words and basic sentence structures to express themselves in writing.

Note: The development of basic language skills does not take place in isolated exercises, but rather in context, so that students learn not only the rules but also when and how to apply them.

In Grade 2, learning occurs primarily:

In **oral comprehension** through:

- listening to short, illustrated texts in various literary genres and subject areas
- listening to recorded texts supported by illustrations.

Students will learn to use basic listening strategies and develop a cooperative attitude toward the speaker so that they benefit from each listening situation.

In **reading comprehension**:

Teachers will select, for their students, short texts and stories of approximately 100 to 150 words:

- whose content is related to their past experiences and prior knowledge
- that provide concrete, familiar information.

In **oral production**:

Themes for presentations and discussions may be chosen from various subject areas. Students should have had the opportunity to explore topic-related vocabulary in various contexts. Proposed situations should allow students to demonstrate what they already know or what they have learned about a given topic, or to represent their imaginary world.

Student presentations and discussions should be short and well structured, with emphasis on:

- the meaning of the message
- the correct use of vocabulary related to the topic or to the representation of their imaginary world
- the importance of intonation for better understanding.

In **writing**:

In **Grade 2**, learning to write is a continuation of work begun in Grade 1.

- Students develop the ability to write sentences and short texts based on models to become familiar with the written language.
- Students learn to write sentences for the purpose of providing information and short texts to represent their imaginary world.

The main purpose of these learning activities is to enable students to integrate the basic elements of the written language:

- the choice of words to express their ideas
- word order in a sentence
- punctuation
- spelling.

International Languages

Bilingual Programs

http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/interlang.aspx

Students in a bilingual program follow a language arts course in the target language (e.g., Spanish, Ukrainian) in addition to studying English language arts. In these programs, the target language is also used as the language of instruction in other subject areas, such as mathematics, science and social studies.

Students acquire knowledge, skills and attitudes in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, writing, viewing and representing. They learn to use the target language confidently and competently in a variety of situations for communication, personal satisfaction and further learning. They are able to explore, understand and appreciate the cultures of the target language for personal growth and satisfaction, and to participate in and contribute to an interdependent and multicultural global society.

Alberta Education offers the following provincial courses for bilingual program students:

- Chinese (Mandarin) Language Arts
- German Language Arts
- Spanish Language Arts
- Ukrainian Language Arts

Language and Culture Programs

Students registered in a language and culture course study the target language (e.g., Ukrainian, German) as a subject area. The language and culture program is designed to develop language and cultural skills.

Students will:

- use the international language in a variety of situations for a variety of purposes
- use the international language effectively and competently
- acquire the knowledge, skills and attitudes to become effective global citizens
- know and use strategies to maximize the effectiveness of learning and communication.

Italian Language and Culture (Twelve-year Program) is the only provincial language and culture course sequence that begins at Grade 1 and extends through to Grade 12.

Locally Developed Language Courses

If there are no available provincial programs of study, school authorities may develop their own language course series. Currently, a variety of languages, e.g., Arabic, American Sign Language (ASL), Hebrew, Polish and Russian, are offered as local courses. Locally developed First Nations, Métis and Inuit language and culture courses may also be available to meet the needs of students in local or First Nations schools.

For more information on second language instruction offered in your area, please contact your local school board.

Information for Parents

Learning in Alberta

Schools provide students with a broad educational program that helps them:

- develop knowledge, skills and attitudes in a variety of subject areas
- demonstrate critical and creative thinking skills in problem solving and decision making
- demonstrate competence in using information technologies
- know how to learn and work independently and as part of a team
- develop desirable personal characteristics and the ability to make ethical decisions
- demonstrate initiative, leadership, flexibility and persistence
- realize the need for lifelong learning.

Schools also prepare students to make positive contributions to society through communities, the workplace and/or post-secondary studies.

Teachers make a number of decisions when planning for classroom instruction. Within any group of students, there is a range of individual differences. Teachers use the learning outcomes of the provincial curriculum to meet the needs and interests of their students and to make connections across subject areas. They choose resources, equipment and materials to help students achieve the learning outcomes. Teaching methods and schedules vary from school to school and from class to class to meet the diverse learning needs of students.

Alberta Education assists teachers by reviewing and selecting the best possible resources, such as textbooks, videotapes and computer software, for all subject areas. Authorization of resources by Alberta Education indicates that the resources meet high standards and can help students achieve the learning outcomes. Teachers can choose other resources, as long as they follow school board policy.

http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

Authorized resources are available for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC).

School Councils

Schools, parents and communities all play an important advisory role in education. School councils are designed to give parents, senior high school students and teachers meaningful involvement in decisions that impact student learning. Each school council determines its own level of involvement, depending on local needs. Parents can get more information on how to get involved by contacting their school or the Alberta School Councils' Association (ASCA).

http://www.albertaschoolcouncils.ca

http://education.alberta.ca/media/464094/scm.pdf

The *Alberta School Council Resource Manual* provides information on the operation of school councils and on key topics of importance to school councils and other education stakeholders.

School Fees and Fundraising

Decisions regarding school fees and fundraising are made by the local board or by the school principal in consultation with the school council within policy guidelines established by the school board. In September 2000, the Alberta School Boards Association (ASBA) developed and provided guidelines to school boards to assist boards in establishing appropriate local policy.

http://www.asba.ab.ca/services_for_boards/policy_advisories_fees.html

The *School Act* allows for certain fees to be collected for alternative programs, transportation, or supplies and materials provided for the student's personal use or consumption; this may include such things as calculators, locker rentals, student planners and computer diskettes. The fees charged are on a cost recovery basis. Caution fees should be refunded at the end of the year if the item is returned in good condition.

The ASBA school fee advisory recognizes that fees should be waived for those who cannot afford them and that no student should be prohibited from participating.

http://www.asba.ab.ca/services_for_boards/policy_advisories_fund.html

Parents are not to fundraise for core items such as textbooks. Some fundraising is allowable for things like athletic uniforms, field trips and other extras that staff and parents want for their schools. Participation in fundraising activities should be voluntary. No student should be excluded from an event or program because the parents could not contribute.

School Choice

http://education.alberta.ca/parents/choice.aspx

Choice is one of the important principles of Alberta's education system. When it comes to selecting a school, parents and students can choose from a wide range of options. They can select from public schools, Catholic schools, Francophone schools, private schools and charter schools. They can also access a number of unique and innovative programs—including online schools. Parents can also opt to home school their children.

Inspiring Education

http://www.inspiringeducation.alberta.ca

Inspiring Education: A Dialogue with Albertans is an opportunity to shape the future of education in Alberta and we want to hear your perspective. Tell us your story. Share your opinions. Join the conversation! *Inspiring Education* is an exchange of ideas to change each other's thinking about what education is and what education means. It's about looking to the future and deciding what education in Alberta should be in 20 years.

Information about Curriculum

Alberta has one of the best education systems in the world. One of the many reasons is a centralized, high quality curriculum that outlines what students are expected to learn and be able to do in all subjects and grades. Alberta's curriculum is designed to help students achieve their individual potential and create a positive future for themselves, their families and their communities.

Curriculum Content— Deciding What Students Should Learn

The Alberta curriculum strives to:

- reflect the essential knowledge, skills and attitudes that Alberta students need to be well prepared for future learning and the world of work
- anticipate and plan for the needs of the future by considering the changes and developments in society such as trends in employment, globalization and advances in technology
- incorporate values of good citizenship and respect for different languages and cultures
- consider students' needs and abilities—intellectual, social, emotional and physical—at different ages and stages of growth
- ensure that each grade provides a foundation of knowledge for successful learning in subsequent years
- incorporate new discoveries and theories that are generally accepted by experts in subject areas
- develop skills that are necessary for success in learning a subject
- consider new research on proven teaching methods and how students learn best
- reflect the most appropriate level at which the skills are to be acquired
- integrate how the study of a subject contributes to student personal growth and development

- accommodate learning in different environments
- consider various ways of delivering a program to students, including new technologies and use of community resources such as distance learning and workplace learning.

Curriculum Development—Who Is Involved in the Process?

Alberta Education takes a lead role in developing and revising provincial curriculum. However, many others, including teachers, principals, parents, education experts, post-secondary educators, elders and community members, play a vital role in the process. Input from various stakeholders ensures that curriculum continually meets the needs of students and that there are smooth transitions from grade to grade, to post-secondary education and to the world of work.

Ensuring Curriculum Is Current

Curriculum must provide students with the knowledge and skills needed for the present and future. It is reviewed regularly and changes are made to keep it current and relevant. Curriculum revisions occur only after extensive consultations with education stakeholders.

Planning Curriculum Changes

Alberta Education plans curriculum changes well in advance to minimize any impact on schools, teachers and students. This ensures that school authorities have sufficient time to prepare for the changes and plan for the purchase of any needed resources.

Revising Curriculum

If it is determined through the regular review process that there is a need to make minor or major revisions to a subject area in the curriculum, education stakeholders play a major role in the process. Alberta Education conducts initial consultations and prepares a draft program of studies for that subject area. The draft is shared with a wide variety of education stakeholders through advisory committees, online feedback forms, conferences and presentations to teacher specialist councils. Teachers play a vital role in the process. They use their practical knowledge about a subject and about students' needs at specific age levels to provide input and feedback during the process.

Implementing Curriculum

The draft program of studies, developed in consultation with education stakeholders, is referred to the Minister of Education for approval. Schools may have the opportunity to pilot the program for one year prior to full provincial implementation. This transition year gives schools time to prepare for the new curriculum. When a curriculum is implemented province-wide, all schools must teach the new curriculum. Alberta Education, in partnership with superintendents, boards, teachers, principals, parents and students, shares roles and responsibilities in the effective implementation of a new curriculum.

Alberta Education supports school authorities by producing teacher resources that provide ideas for lesson planning, instructional strategies and student assessment. Also, it provides orientation for school authority leaders and lead teachers about curriculum changes and shares updates at professional conferences and in-services.

http://www.arpdc.ab.ca

Professional development funds are provided to seven Alberta Regional Professional Development Consortia. Each Regional Consortium organizes and provides activities to respond to in-service needs identified locally. This may include information and orientation sessions related to curriculum revisions.

http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

Alberta Education selects and authorizes learning and teaching resources that are designed specifically to support the provincial curriculum. Alberta Education also provides funding to help schools purchase learning and teaching resources through the Learning Resources Centre.

First Nations, Métis and Inuit Education

http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/fnmi.aspx

http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/fnmi/policies.aspx

First Nations, Métis and Inuit peoples throughout the province have indicated they want their children to complete regular school requirements and achieve the same standards as set for all students in Alberta. Alberta Education shares this goal with parents. The First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) Education Policy Framework (2002) provides further information.

To support the learning of First Nations, Métis and Inuit students, schools are encouraged to use learning resources that include First Nations, Métis and Inuit perspectives. All students in Alberta need to understand and be aware of First Nations, Métis and Inuit history, culture, lifestyles and heritage. First Nations, Métis and Inuit (FNMI) perspectives are infused into the existing Kindergarten to Grade 12 programs of study. Student and teacher resources have been developed by Alberta Education to support the inclusion of FNMI content in teaching and learning.

Both provincially and locally authorized Blackfoot and Cree language and culture courses are offered in the province.

http://education.alberta.ca/media/308566/aboriginalparenthandbook.pdf

A Handbook for Aboriginal Parents of Children with Special Needs (2000) provides information to assist First Nations, Métis and Inuit parents in working with schools to meet the special education needs of their children. This resource is available for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC).

http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/resources/item.htm?item-no=415712

Our Treasured Children is a videotape that complements *A Handbook for Aboriginal Parents of Children with Special Needs*. It highlights intergenerational stories from members of the Aboriginal community. The videotape is available for purchase from the Learning Resources Centre (LRC).

Daily Physical Activity

For more information about the DPA policy and resources to support DPA, visit the DPA Web site at http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/resources/dpa.aspx.

School authorities shall ensure that all students in grades 1 to 9 are physically active for a minimum of 30 minutes daily through activities that are organized by the school. Daily Physical Activity (DPA) is based on the belief that healthy students are better able to learn and that school communities provide supportive environments for students to develop positive habits needed for a healthy, active lifestyle.

Schools have the responsibility of creating and nurturing a learning environment for students that supports the development of the lifelong habit for daily physical activity and for healthy lifestyles. The daily physical activities offered in your school should:

- vary in form and intensity
- take into account each student's ability
- consider resources available within the school and the larger community
- allow for student choice.

Parents can assist implementation of DPA and enhance the health benefits received by students through a supportive home environment; e.g., encouraging your child to be active every day, walk your child to school or facilitate a walking school bus program at school.

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/pau-uap/paguide/

For further information and ways to increase physical activity at home, visit the Healthy U Web site or the Public Health Agency of Canada's Web site.

Career and Life Planning

Preparing for life and connecting learning and work is a complex process that begins in the early years of schooling and continues throughout our lives. Alberta schools are taking an active role—along with parents and the community—in helping students manage transitions within the K–12 learning system and when moving into further education, training, and/or the workplace.

In the elementary grades, students begin to discover their interests and abilities, and start to become aware of the opportunities available in the world of work. They also begin to develop life skills, such as cooperating with others and being reliable.

Personal and career development activities and outcomes are integrated into elementary courses and programs. In particular, the elementary health program focuses specifically on these topics.

Supports for Learning

Students have individual learning needs. Schools, supported by Alberta Education, provide a variety of programs and services to meet the individual needs of students.

English as a Second Language

http://education.alberta.ca/teachers/program/esl.aspx

Many children born in Canada have a first language other than English and many students move here from non-English speaking countries. Schools provide additional assistance for English as a Second Language (ESL) students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. This helps them acquire sufficient fluency in English so they can function in the regular classroom as quickly as possible.

Special Education

http://education.alberta.ca/admin/special/resources/learningteam.aspx

Some students require specialized learning opportunities in order to receive an education. School boards must provide special education programming that is consistent with the student's identified learning needs. If you feel your child would benefit from additional support, you should talk to the classroom teacher. Your child's teacher or the school principal will have information about the special education services and programming available through the school jurisdiction. To assist you in discussing your child's needs, access *The Learning Team: A Handbook for Parents of Children with Special Needs* through the link provided.

Distributed Learning

Alberta Education provides leadership and resources for distributed learning in Alberta's educational institutions. Distributed learning is a model through which learning is distributed among a variety of delivery formats and mediums—print, digital (online) and traditional delivery methods. Teachers, students and content can be located in different, noncentralized locations, enabling student learning any time, any place and at any pace.

http://lrc.education.gov.ab.ca/pro/default.html

Distributed learning resources are provincially authorized resources that support educational program delivery in Alberta. For information about purchasing distributed learning resources, contact the Learning Resources Centre.

Digital Resources to Support Curriculum Outcomes

http://learnalberta.ca

LearnAlberta.ca is a Web site that provides quality online resources to the Kindergarten to Grade 12 community in Alberta. It is a safe, reliable and innovative collection of learning resources provided by Alberta Education. Students, teachers and parents can access multimedia learning resources here that are based on Alberta Education curriculum guidelines. A featured resource is the Online Reference Centre, a collection of multimedia encyclopedias in French and English. These reference materials include newspapers, magazines, books, maps, pictures, videos and transcripts suitable for all grades and subject areas.

The Web site is password protected, with each school authority receiving a new username and password each August. Usernames and passwords are available from school principals or by contacting the Alberta Education Client Services HelpDesk between 8:15 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on weekdays:

Telephone: 780–427–5318 (toll-free using 310–0000)
E-mail: cshelpdesk@gov.ab.ca

Please note that you will need to provide the name of your school and school authority.

Assessment

Assessing Student Achievement

http://education.alberta.ca/admin/testing/achievement.aspx

In the classroom, a teacher uses a variety of means to assess students' learning throughout the school year. These assessments are based on the instruction being provided, in order to inform the teacher's planning from day to day. Classroom assessment may serve a diagnostic purpose, indicating students' strengths and weaknesses in specific skill areas. At other times classroom assessment may be formative, indicating how well students have achieved in a unit of study or how well they have achieved to a particular point in the course. At the end of a school year, a teacher also assesses how well the students have achieved the expected learning outcomes in the curriculum for that grade. This type of assessment is designed primarily for reporting purposes. All these classroom assessments are integral to instruction.

Grade Level of Achievement (GLA)

http://education.alberta.ca/media/938683/09002abedglabrocv2.pdf

Grade Level of Achievement is the teacher's professional judgement of a student's achievement in a core subject (language arts, mathematics, science and social studies).

Alberta teachers must report grades 1–9 student Grade Level of Achievement to parents.

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Feedback Form

Curriculum Handbook for Parents 2009–2010: Grade 2

Please indicate whether you are a:

☐ Parent ☐ Teacher ☐ School Administrator ☐ District Administrator ☐ Other (please specify) _____

Please indicate whether you used:

☐ a print copy ☐ the online format ☐ both

Please respond to the following by placing a check mark under **Strongly Disagree, Disagree, Agree** or **Strongly Agree**.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree
1. The handbook provides useful information.				
2. The amount of information is appropriate.				
3. The reading level is appropriate.				
4. The layout and organization are user-friendly.				
5. The links to the Alberta Education Web site are helpful.				
6. Downloading and printing is easy.				

Grade:	Kindergarten	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Senior High
Grade level used:	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

How can this handbook be made more helpful to parents?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Thank you for your feedback.

Please send your response to:

Communications Coordinator
Alberta Education
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Edmonton, Alberta, Canada
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Fax: 780–422–3745